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April 28, 2021

To: ODDS Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Subject: Honoring Kathryn Weit

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Kathryn Weit. Those of you who have been involved in advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families likely knew her or heard of her, and you benefitted from her tireless work.

Kathryn was passionate about advocacy. She was versatile. She could work with the governor and legislators and translate complicated information to people who were doing advocacy so together they could accomplish their goals.

She was tireless, always accessible, smart, and had a sense of humor. She helped parents understand they really must blaze the paths for their children to set a course for their lifetimes. She had a way of helping parents feel capable and confident.

As one example, we require background checks on providers, in large part, due to Kathryn's advocacy. She gave incredible testimony explaining why it is important to have good providers come into the home and worked hard to make background checks a requirement. She was also a fierce advocate for the Fairview Trust, recognizing its importance as a symbol of hope and a commitment to never again institutionalize Oregonians with I/DD.

Daily, our system is strengthened by the commitment and determination of strong advocates. For many people, Kathryn was the shining star of advocacy. Kathryn had a lifelong impact on many people and on the culture

of our service system. We thank the Weit family for sharing this wonderful advocate with us for so many years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" that loops around the first few letters.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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